

1 May 1946

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Legion of Merit for Robert Bishop,  
Lt. Colonel AC O 918 130

TO: The Adjutant General, War Department  
Washington, D. C.

THROUGH: Director, SSU, War Department

1. a) It is recommended that Lt. Colonel (then Major) Robert Bishop, 0918130, OASW SSU, be awarded the Legion of Merit for distinguished and outstanding services to the Government of the United States in the organization of and the development of comprehensive counter-espionage activities.

b) This officer has served with the Counter-Espionage Branch of the Office of Strategic Services and the Strategic Services Unit from December 1943 to March 1946 as Assistant Chief and Chief of CE Services operating in the Middle East and Southeastern Europe.

c) Name and address of nearest relative:

Mrs. Helen Bishop  
242 East 19th Street  
New York City

d) Entered Military Service from:

Washington, D. C., October 1, 1942

e) Decorations previously awarded:

None

2. a) This officer's first overseas assignment was in Turkey early in 1944 and at a critical time of the war when enemy agents stationed in Turkey were operating a vast espionage network throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean Areas. Through his proficiency in CE work, academic background in Turkish history, knowledge and understanding of the Turkish people, and resourcefulness, he was successful in organizing a counter-espionage system which contributed considerably to neutralizing the work of enemy agents. He personally took into custody several enemy agents and effected their secret transfer to Allied territory where their interrogation proved of outstanding value to the Allied war effort.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

X2  
PE27013

CONFIDENTIAL

b) This officer also succeeded in personally obtaining copies of German diplomatic, military, and naval messages; he was successful in providing security against enemy agents who were attempting to penetrate American military and diplomatic installations in Turkey; he was also instrumental in the development of an intelligence network, which neutralized the espionage efforts of enemy agents after their internment by the Turkish Government, and was successful in developing the framework and foundation of a counter-intelligence system which has continued to function since his departure from that country and the value of which cannot be adequately measured for many years to come.

c) During his service in Turkey, this officer was instrumental in the development of a counter-espionage system inside Occupied Europe, which saved the lives of American agents, and at the same time safeguarded operations which led to negotiations with forces in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary opposed to the Nazis.

J. a) Because of this distinguished service in the Middle East and his knowledge of the enemy espionage network inside Occupied Europe, this officer was selected to enter Southwestern Europe to take charge of counter-espionage activities there, when the peoples of Southwestern Europe revolted against the Nazi Regime; he accepted this dangerous assignment on a voluntary basis.

b) This officer, who had qualified himself by his training and experience as a parasitist with the SAS, volunteered to go alone as the sole counter-espionage agent into enemy-occupied Rumania.

c) While prepared to enter the aforementioned enemy territory by parachute, he arranged with observation sources to fly into enemy territory in an enemy plane; more than four hours at an altitude of from twenty-five to fifty feet landing successfully at Bucharest, Rumania.

d) Upon his arrival, accompanied by two enlisted men, who were radio operators, he immediately commenced operations, while fighting was continuing in the outskirts of the city, to neutralize enemy stay-behind agents and to capture all available enemy documents.

e) In the four weeks that followed, this officer without the aid of any junior officers or enlisted men was successful in seizing many tons of enemy intelligence material, including the files of: (1) the Glubbekitchewski, (2) the Miller Regent, (3) Senter and Company, (4) Ludwig Rothmann, Chief of Nazi Party in Rumania, (5) the Infanterie,

(6) Ambassador KILLINGER, (7) Von Ribbentrop, Police Atachee, and numerous other German records. These were among the first important German records captured during this phase of the war and have been of tangible value to G-2 (C.I.), the War Crimes Trials, and the Department of State.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

f) In addition, this officer capably directed a unit which won the confidence of important Rumanian officials, who made available to OSS more than two hundred rolls of German film depicting the fighting on the Eastern front and showing in considerable detail technological and logistical data of current and continuing interest to the Military of the United States.

4. a) Following his initial success, this officer was given the services of one enlisted man, who subsequently became a commissioned officer. In addition, he recruited surplus personnel from other units and trained them into a competent staff to assist in the development of a comprehensive counter-espionage group which has rendered outstanding service to the United States. Security considerations prevent a description of all the accomplishments of the mission, some of which are still continuing.

b) The following accomplishments are believed noteworthy:

1) The organization of a very active and extensive network producing positive and negative intelligence. Many of sources and sub-sources of this network were well-placed penetration agents, most of whom were directly controlled by Lt. Colonel Bishop.

2) Personal responsibility for the production and evaluation of more than 750 intelligence reports.

3) The identity, function, and personnel of worldwide intelligence services about which relatively little was known at that time.

4) In addition to the personal assistance rendered by this officer to the Fifteenth Air Force in the evacuation of more than 1500 American airmen captured by the enemy, vital aid in technical intelligence was rendered concerning the bomb damage at Florenti and other oil centers.

5) Through certain agent contacts he located secret plants in enemy territory in which both the automatic and the explosive parts of V-1 and V-2 were being manufactured. This information provided to the Army Air Forces is regarded as having contributed materially to the winning of the war.

6) Through the intelligence network which this officer established to cover all Embassies and Legations, information was obtained which resulted in neutralizing Japanese espionage in Rumania. In a letter concerning this officer to Allied Force Headquarters, Italy, under date of 22 June 1945, the Honorable Burton I. Berry, United States Representative in Rumania, wrote as follows: "On two occasions he rendered us distinctive service. First, when we had inklings that Japanese officials were continuing espionage work after the break of relations between Rumania and Japan. With information supplied by Major Bishop, we were able to cut off

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

their activities and have all Japanese interned. The second occasion had to do with a leak in our office. The full and excellent information supplied by Major Bishop permitted us to stop this."

5. a) In connection with the foregoing accomplishments, it is to this officer's further credit that his work in Rumania was necessarily conducted under the greatest difficulties which required the utmost skill and tact, because of the peculiar and delicate situation in which Rumania found itself after the capitulation and armistice.

b) It is believed that Lt. Colonel Bishop has rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the Government of the United States in the organization and development of counter-espionage in certain European areas of importance to the prosecution of the war and security of the United States and which will assume an important role during the years to come.

6. The entire service of Lt. Colonel Bishop has been honorable since the rendition by him of the service for which this recommendation is submitted.

7. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the service upon which this recommendation is based. The recommendation is supported by official records of Strategic Services Unit, War Department, formerly Office of Strategic Services.

8. Proposed Citation:

"Lt. Colonel Robert Bishop, 0916130, USA RRS, for exceptionally meritorious service from December 1943 to May 1945. As a direct result of his initiative, resourcefulness, and skill, valuable counter-espionage activities were successfully conducted which materially contributed to the conduct of the war, neutralized espionage efforts of enemy agents in certain areas, made available to the United States documentary and other information of high import. This officer's courage, perseverance, and enterprise led to the capture of large quantities of valuable enemy material and other information. Lt. Colonel Bishop's high organizational ability and his great devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and upon the United States Army. Entered Military Service from Washington, D. C."

JAMES R. MURPHY  
Chief of Branch

CONFIDENTIAL